

News

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HIGHLIGHTS OF LINCOLN, NE NATIONAL COMPENSATION SURVEY MARCH 2003

Workers in the Lincoln metropolitan area averaged \$16.40 per hour during March 2003, according to a new survey released by the U. S. Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS). Acting Regional Commissioner Charlene Peiffer reported that white-collar workers averaged \$19.05 per hour and accounted for 51 percent of the workers in the area. Blue-collar employees averaged \$14.98 per hour and represented 30 percent of the workforce, while the remainder worked in service occupations and earned \$10.53 per hour. (See table 1)

The National Compensation Survey (NCS) presents straight-time earnings for occupations in establishments employing 50 or more workers in private industry and State and local governments. The survey excludes agricultural establishments, private households, the self-employed, and the Federal Government. This NCS covered 237 firms representing 75,800 workers in the Lincoln metropolitan area, which consists of Lancaster County. Sixty-seven percent of those represented worked in private industry.

In the Lincoln metropolitan area, average hourly wages were published for 35 detailed occupations. (See table 1) Among white-collar workers, social workers averaged \$14.99 per hour; bookkeepers, accounting and auditing clerks, \$12.73; and cashiers, \$6.61. Blue-collar occupations included industrial machinery repairers earning \$17.28 per hour; assemblers at \$11.94; and stock handlers and baggers at \$8.81. In the service occupations, nursing aides, orderlies and attendants averaged \$11.01 per hour and cooks, \$8.55.

The NCS also provides broad coverage of selected occupational characteristics. (See tables 2 and 3) For example, full-time employees in the Lincoln area averaged \$17.41 per hour and part-timers earned \$9.81. Union workers in blue-collar jobs averaged \$17.72 per hour, while their non-union counterparts made \$13.06. Private industry workers in establishments employing 50-99 workers averaged \$13.34 per hour and those in establishments with 500 or more employees earned \$18.75.

The NCS is part of a statistical program that integrates three previously separate surveys of wages and benefits into one comprehensive compensation program increasing the amount of data available. Data provided by the NCS may be used by businesses for establishing pay plans, making decisions concerning plant relocation, and in collective bargaining negotiations. Individuals may use such data to help choose potential careers. Average rates of pay are also available for levels of work within an occupation based on knowledge, skill, independent judgment, supervision received and other factors required on the job.

Survey Availability

Complete survey results are contained in the Lincoln, NE National Compensation Survey March 2003 (Bulletin 3120-34). While supplies last, single copies of the bulletin are available from the BLS Information Office in Chicago by calling 312-353-1880. In addition, data contained in the bulletin are available on the Internet in both text and PDF formats at www.bls.gov/ncs/ocs/compub.htm. Survey tables can also be obtained from the Bureau's fax-on-demand service by dialing (312) 353-1880, menu option 1. Up to five documents at a time may be selected and faxed to you within minutes, 24 hours a day.

BLS Fax-on-Demand - Chicago (312) 353-1880, option 1		
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For personal assistance or further information on the National Compensation Survey, as well as other Bureau programs, contact the Chicago Information Office at (312) 353-1880 from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. CT.

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Table 1. **Mean hourly earnings,¹ all workers:² Selected occupations, private industry and State and local government, National Compensation Survey, Lincoln, NE, March 2003**

Occupation ³	Total		Private industry		State and local government	
	Mean	Relative error ⁴ (percent)	Mean	Relative error ⁴ (percent)	Mean	Relative error ⁴ (percent)
All	\$16.40	3.8	\$15.16	3.5	\$19.01	7.9
All excluding sales	16.60	3.9	15.33	3.7	19.12	8.0
White collar	19.05	5.1	17.37	3.4	21.44	10.2
White collar excluding sales	19.73	5.4	18.16	3.4	21.67	10.3
Professional specialty and technical	23.48	2.3	21.35	2.3	25.90	2.9
Professional specialty	26.02	3.8	24.01	5.4	27.59	5.3
Engineers, architects, and surveyors	28.98	3.0	29.00	3.2	—	—
Industrial engineers	26.46	7.3	—	—	—	—
Mathematical and computer scientists	28.69	8.5	28.69	8.5	—	—
Computer systems analysts and scientists	28.14	14.6	28.14	14.6	—	—
Natural scientists	—	—	—	—	—	—
Health related	—	—	—	—	—	—
Teachers, college and university	—	—	—	—	—	—
Teachers, except college and university	26.46	9.7	—	—	28.59	8.8
Elementary school teachers	32.34	3.7	—	—	32.47	3.7
Secondary school teachers	31.31	12.6	—	—	31.87	13.3
Librarians, archivists, and curators	—	—	—	—	—	—
Social scientists and urban planners	—	—	—	—	—	—
Social, recreation, and religious workers	14.99	3.2	—	—	—	—
Social workers	14.99	3.2	—	—	—	—
Lawyers and judges	—	—	—	—	—	—
Writers, authors, entertainers, athletes, and professionals, n.e.c.	—	—	—	—	—	—
Technical	17.21	5.3	17.57	6.9	—	—
Engineering technicians, n.e.c.	17.29	9.7	18.13	17.4	—	—
Executive, administrative, and managerial	26.59	12.6	26.06	6.3	27.00	21.6
Executives, administrators, and managers	29.79	7.6	28.56	8.2	30.53	10.6
Administrators, education and related fields	36.86	8.9	—	—	—	—
Managers and administrators, n.e.c.	28.52	5.7	28.39	8.4	—	—
Management related	18.55	15.1	21.99	6.9	—	—
Sales	12.51	12.5	12.74	13.4	—	—
Supervisors, sales	14.26	18.0	—	—	—	—
Advertising and related sales	25.82	29.1	25.82	29.1	—	—
Cashiers	6.61	2.5	6.61	2.5	—	—
Administrative support, including clerical	12.40	2.4	12.71	2.3	11.86	6.4
Secretaries	12.14	5.9	13.16	8.1	—	—
Receptionists	10.15	5.6	10.15	5.6	—	—
Order clerks	13.25	10.2	13.25	10.2	—	—
Records clerks, n.e.c.	9.58	8.7	9.58	8.7	—	—
Bookkeepers, accounting and auditing clerks	12.73	1.8	12.62	3.3	—	—
General office clerks	11.33	4.7	10.85	5.8	—	—
Data entry keyers	10.42	5.4	11.25	4.8	—	—
Blue collar	14.98	3.0	14.86	3.2	15.85	10.4
Precision production, craft, and repair	19.00	4.7	19.07	5.0	18.71	12.1
Industrial machinery repairers	17.28	8.9	16.55	8.1	—	—
Supervisors, production	19.41	19.9	25.18	14.5	—	—
Machine operators, assemblers, and inspectors	13.91	7.5	13.91	7.5	—	—
Fabricating machine operators, n.e.c.	18.45	10.6	18.45	10.6	—	—
Miscellaneous machine operators, n.e.c.	14.90	7.5	14.90	7.5	—	—
Assemblers	11.94	4.5	11.94	4.5	—	—
Transportation and material moving	17.44	9.1	17.36	10.3	—	—
Truck drivers	14.82	11.0	14.31	14.4	—	—
Industrial truck and tractor equipment operators ..	13.25	5.5	13.25	5.5	—	—
Handlers, equipment cleaners, helpers, and laborers	10.42	3.2	10.47	3.6	—	—
Stock handlers and baggers	8.81	10.5	8.81	10.5	—	—
Freight, stock, and material handlers, n.e.c.	10.39	5.4	10.39	5.4	—	—

See footnotes at end of table.

Table 1. Mean hourly earnings,¹ all workers:² Selected occupations, private industry and State and local government, National Compensation Survey, Lincoln, NE, March 2003 — Continued

Occupation ³	Total		Private industry		State and local government	
	Mean	Relative error ⁴ (percent)	Mean	Relative error ⁴ (percent)	Mean	Relative error ⁴ (percent)
Blue collar —Continued						
Handlers, equipment cleaners, helpers, and laborers						
—Continued						
Laborers, except construction, n.e.c.	\$13.32	10.3	\$13.32	10.3	—	—
Service	10.53	4.9	8.45	6.7	\$13.22	2.5
Protective service	14.42	3.1	—	—	14.77	3.0
Food service	7.17	10.3	6.64	12.0	—	—
Waiters, waitresses, and bartenders	3.13	15.2	3.13	15.2	—	—
Waiters and waitresses	2.94	19.0	2.94	19.0	—	—
Other food service	9.40	4.7	8.96	6.1	—	—
Supervisors, food preparation and service	11.93	6.3	—	—	—	—
Cooks	8.55	1.7	8.42	2.1	—	—
Food preparation, n.e.c.	7.94	8.4	7.43	5.5	—	—
Health service	11.02	3.6	11.06	4.7	—	—
Nursing aides, orderlies and attendants	11.01	3.7	11.05	5.0	—	—
Cleaning and building service	10.24	10.0	10.29	13.4	10.11	9.3
Janitors and cleaners	10.49	6.9	10.77	9.6	10.11	9.3
Personal service	8.38	9.8	7.16	5.4	—	—
Early childhood teachers' assistants	9.26	10.7	—	—	—	—

¹ Earnings are the straight-time hourly wages or salaries paid to employees. They include incentive pay, cost-of-living adjustments, and hazard pay. Excluded are premium pay for overtime, vacations, holidays, nonproduction bonuses, and tips. The mean is computed by totaling the pay of all workers and dividing by the number of workers, weighted by hours.

² All workers include full-time and part-time workers.

³ A classification system including about 480 individual occupations is used to cover all workers in the civilian economy. See appendix B in printed Bulletin 3120-34.

⁴ The relative standard error (RSE) is the standard error expressed as a percent of the estimate. It can be used to calculate a "confidence interval" around a sample estimate.

NOTE: Dashes indicate that no data were reported or that data did not meet publication criteria, and n.e.c. means "not elsewhere classified." Overall occupational groups may include data for categories not shown separately.

Table 2. **Selected worker characteristics: Mean hourly earnings¹ by occupational group,² National Compensation Survey, Lincoln, NE, March 2003**

Occupational group	Private industry and State and local government					
	Full-time workers ³	Part-time workers ³	Union ⁴	Nonunion ⁴	Time ⁵	Incentive ⁵
	Mean					
All occupations	\$17.41	\$9.81	\$17.39	\$15.92	\$16.32	\$18.66
All excluding sales	17.41	10.44	17.39	16.18	16.59	17.28
White collar	19.78	13.01	18.80	19.14	19.13	17.02
White-collar excluding sales	19.93	17.10	18.80	20.11	19.89	—
Professional specialty and technical	23.37	24.61	25.41	22.46	23.61	—
Professional specialty	26.03	25.93	27.60	25.00	26.24	—
Technical	17.26	—	—	17.51	17.21	—
Executive, administrative, and managerial	26.59	—	—	28.49	26.59	—
Sales	17.36	—	—	12.51	10.05	22.01
Administrative support, including clerical	12.66	9.85	11.90	12.62	12.44	—
Blue collar	15.53	7.76	17.72	13.06	14.70	—
Precision production, craft, and repair	19.10	—	20.36	17.83	18.80	—
Machine operators, assemblers, and inspectors	13.96	—	16.92	11.84	13.10	—
Transportation and material moving	17.65	—	21.96	13.10	17.49	—
Handlers, equipment cleaners, helpers, and laborers	11.19	7.62	11.60	9.84	10.30	—
Service	12.18	7.29	13.64	8.45	10.53	—
	Relative error ⁶ (percent)					
All occupations	4.4	6.8	2.0	5.3	3.9	10.1
All excluding sales	4.5	7.8	2.0	5.6	4.0	10.9
White collar	5.6	9.2	4.7	6.2	5.2	17.1
White-collar excluding sales	5.8	8.0	4.7	6.6	5.4	—
Professional specialty and technical	2.9	13.3	3.8	2.8	2.4	—
Professional specialty	4.6	11.7	7.4	3.9	3.5	—
Technical	5.6	—	—	6.8	5.3	—
Executive, administrative, and managerial	12.6	—	—	7.3	12.6	—
Sales	13.0	—	—	12.5	8.7	20.8
Administrative support, including clerical	2.5	3.4	7.9	2.3	2.6	—
Blue collar	3.8	4.1	5.6	3.6	3.1	—
Precision production, craft, and repair	4.7	—	7.0	7.0	5.0	—
Machine operators, assemblers, and inspectors	7.7	—	4.4	6.7	6.7	—
Transportation and material moving	9.2	—	11.7	5.3	9.2	—
Handlers, equipment cleaners, helpers, and laborers	4.0	5.1	6.3	4.3	3.1	—
Service	4.8	10.3	2.5	6.2	4.9	—

¹ Earnings are the straight-time hourly wages or salaries paid to employees. They include incentive pay, cost-of-living adjustments, and hazard pay. Excluded are premium pay for overtime, vacations, holidays, nonproduction bonuses, and tips. The mean is computed by totaling the pay of all workers and dividing by the number of workers, weighted by hours.

² A classification system including about 480 individual occupations is used to cover all workers in the civilian economy. See appendix B in printed Bulletin 3120-34.

³ Employees are classified as working either a full-time or a part-time schedule based on the definition used by each establishment. Therefore, a worker with a 35-hour-per-week schedule might be considered a full-time employee in one establishment, but classified as part-time in another firm, where a 40-hour week is the minimum full-time schedule.

⁴ Union workers are those whose wages are determined through collective bargaining.

⁵ Time workers' wages are based solely on an hourly rate or salary; incentive workers are those whose wages are at least partially based on productivity payments such as piece rates, commissions, and production bonuses.

⁶ The relative standard error (RSE) is the standard error expressed as a percent of the estimate. It can be used to calculate a "confidence interval" around a sample estimate.

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Table 3. **Establishment employment size: Mean hourly earnings¹ by occupational group,² private industry, National Compensation Survey, Lincoln, NE, March 2003**

Occupational group	Full-time and part-time workers				
	All private industry workers	50 - 99 workers ³	100 workers or more		
			Total	100 - 499 workers	500 workers or more
	Mean				
All occupations	\$15.16	\$13.34	\$15.75	\$14.17	\$18.75
All excluding sales	15.33	13.35	15.98	14.35	18.76
White collar	17.37	16.09	17.73	16.79	—
White-collar excluding sales	18.16	16.64	18.58	17.84	—
Professional specialty and technical	21.35	18.06	22.57	19.78	—
Professional specialty	24.01	19.51	24.90	20.42	—
Technical	17.57	17.24	17.82	18.95	—
Executive, administrative, and managerial	26.06	20.27	28.01	29.49	—
Sales	12.74	13.20	—	—	—
Administrative support, including clerical	12.71	12.58	12.74	12.85	12.37
Blue collar	14.86	15.17	14.79	12.19	18.23
Precision production, craft, and repair	19.07	19.57	18.88	16.15	20.86
Machine operators, assemblers, and inspectors	13.91	10.73	14.24	12.52	17.11
Transportation and material moving	17.36	11.32	19.44	13.64	—
Handlers, equipment cleaners, helpers, and laborers	10.47	12.95	10.08	8.76	—
Service	8.45	7.67	9.41	8.89	—
	Relative error ⁴ (percent)				
All occupations	3.5	4.8	4.6	6.4	4.6
All excluding sales	3.7	4.5	4.9	7.1	4.6
White collar	3.4	7.5	4.9	7.0	—
White-collar excluding sales	3.4	5.9	5.1	7.9	—
Professional specialty and technical	2.3	7.1	4.4	11.0	—
Professional specialty	5.4	10.5	7.7	20.4	—
Technical	6.9	7.7	10.0	6.5	—
Executive, administrative, and managerial	6.3	6.0	6.4	7.6	—
Sales	13.4	19.3	—	—	—
Administrative support, including clerical	2.3	3.4	2.4	3.4	5.4
Blue collar	3.2	6.6	3.7	1.9	4.0
Precision production, craft, and repair	5.0	7.5	6.3	15.9	1.5
Machine operators, assemblers, and inspectors	7.5	3.2	8.7	9.2	3.3
Transportation and material moving	10.3	9.1	12.1	3.0	—
Handlers, equipment cleaners, helpers, and laborers	3.6	6.6	3.9	3.4	—
Service	6.7	5.5	12.2	12.9	—

¹ Earnings are the straight-time hourly wages or salaries paid to employees. They include incentive pay, cost-of-living adjustments, and hazard pay. Excluded are premium pay for overtime, vacations, holidays, nonproduction bonuses, and tips. The mean is computed by totaling the pay of all workers and dividing by the number of workers, weighted by hours.

² A classification system including about 480 individual occupations is used to cover all workers in the civilian economy. See appendix B in printed Bulletin 3120-34.

³ Establishments classified with 50-99 workers may contain

establishments with fewer than 50 due to staff reductions between survey sampling and collection.

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